

Research Paper Format for Body Paragraphs

The four elements of a good paragraph (TTEB)¹

A good paragraph should contain at least the following four elements: Transition, Topic sentence, specific Evidence and analysis, and a Brief wrap-up sentence (also known as a warrant) - TTEB!

1. A **Transition** sentence leading in from a previous paragraph to assure smooth reading. This acts as a hand off from one idea to the next.
2. A **Topic** sentence that tells the reader what you will be discussing in the paragraph.
3. Specific **Evidence** and analysis that supports one of your claims and that provides a deeper level of detail than your topic sentence.
4. A **Brief wrap-up sentence** that tells the reader how and why this information supports the paper's thesis. The brief wrap-up is important because it connects your reasoning and support to your thesis, and it shows that the information in the paragraph is related to your thesis and helps defend it.

As you craft your body paragraphs, use your outline to guide you. In general, you should do the following in each and every body paragraph:

- Begin with your topic sentence. You might simply use/adapt the sentence frames you filled in on your outline.
- “Introduce” the first piece of information from your sources by identifying the author’s name and title. Remember that the author should be identified first by his or her whole name, and then only by his or her LAST name. If the source does not have an author, simply refer to it by title. *Italicize* titles of books. Put “titles of articles” or “websites” in quotations.
- Quote or paraphrase your first piece of information. *Refer to the back of this page for how to format quotations.* **You must use quotes or paraphrases from your sources in every body paragraph!**
- **CITE YOUR SOURCE!** For books, put the page number(s) in parenthesis immediately following the quote or paraphrase. For all other sources, put the author’s last name in parenthesis immediately following the quote or paraphrase or, if there is no author, the first word of the title in parenthesis; this information should match what is on your Works Cited page! *(Refer to the back of this page for proper use of and formatting for citations).*
- Explain/analyze the information in your quote or paraphrase in your own words. Quotes do not speak for themselves!
- Write a sentence that transitions to the next piece of information and repeat the above steps, or transitions to the next paragraph/section of your paper. Use the list of **transition words** to assist you!
- Repeat this process for EVERY body paragraph.

^{1 1} Adapted from: Brizee, Allen. "Body Paragraphs." The Purdue OWL. Purdue U Writing Lab, 17 Apr. 2010. Web. 31 Mar. 2011.